

Magic Valley Region

During 2007, the Magic Valley Region was home to 4 documented wolf packs and 1 other documented wolf group. One documented pack counted as a breeding pair (Figure 10; Table 6). Eleven documented mortalities were the result of control actions, and 1 wolf was shot legally under the 10(j) Rule. Confirmed ($n = 9$) and probable ($n = 4$) cattle losses were attributed to the Moores Flat pack, and the Picabo group, which was subsequently removed. Confirmed ($n = 41$) and probable ($n = 7$) sheep losses were attributed to the Moores Flat, Phantom Hill, and Soldier Mountain packs, and unknown wolves. The Steel Mountain pack also killed sheep in the Magic Valley Region; however, these losses are recorded in the Nampa Subregion section (Table 5). Dog losses were attributed to the Moores Flat and Phantom Hill packs. Three wolves were captured and radiocollared in 2007.

Law Enforcement Summary

Conservation Officers investigated the shooting of a wolf harassing livestock; the take was considered a legal shooting under the 10(j) Rule. There was no documented illegal take in this region in 2007.

Documented Resident Packs

Hyndman

In 2005, agency personnel documented this pack as reproductive. Multiple reports indicated wolves may still be using this area in 2007, however, pack status could not be confirmed.

Moores Flat

This newly documented pack produced a minimum of 6 gray pups. One wolf was captured and radiocollared, but was subsequently lethally removed due to multiple livestock depredations. This pack was implicated in 4 confirmed cattle, 4 probable cattle, 27 confirmed sheep, and 1 confirmed dog depredations. A total of 9 wolves were removed. At the end of 2007, at least 2 wolves were believed to remain. This first-year pack was not counted as a breeding pair for 2007.

Phantom Hill

This pack began making its appearance in the Hailey, Idaho, area in late winter. One female (B326) and 1 male (B333) were captured during summer. This pack was confirmed to have killed 14 sheep and probably killed 3 additional sheep. They were confirmed to have killed 2 dogs. Biologists observed 3 black pups. This first-year pack had a minimum of 5 black wolves and was counted as a breeding pair for 2007.

Soldier Mountain

Subordinate female B192 and alpha male B149 were being monitored at the onset of 2007. B192 was last located during a June monitoring flight and has not been found since. Late winter flights indicated 2 gray wolves in this pack. Since a black wolf was not observed, black wolf B192 had likely either dispersed or was killed and her radiocollar destroyed. Biologists were unable to document reproduction despite repeated efforts. The Soldier Mountain pack was implicated in 3 probable sheep depredations. This sixth-year pack had a minimum of 2 gray wolves and was not counted as a breeding pair for 2007.

Other Documented Wolf Groups

Picabo











This previously undocumented group was discovered when they depredated upon cattle ($n = 5$ confirmed) in the Picabo, Idaho, area. All 3 known wolves were removed (one shot legally under the 10(j) Rule and two removed by WS) from the area including Buffalo Ridge disperser B270. B270 had been missing since late December 2006. He was not found again until his death in 2007.

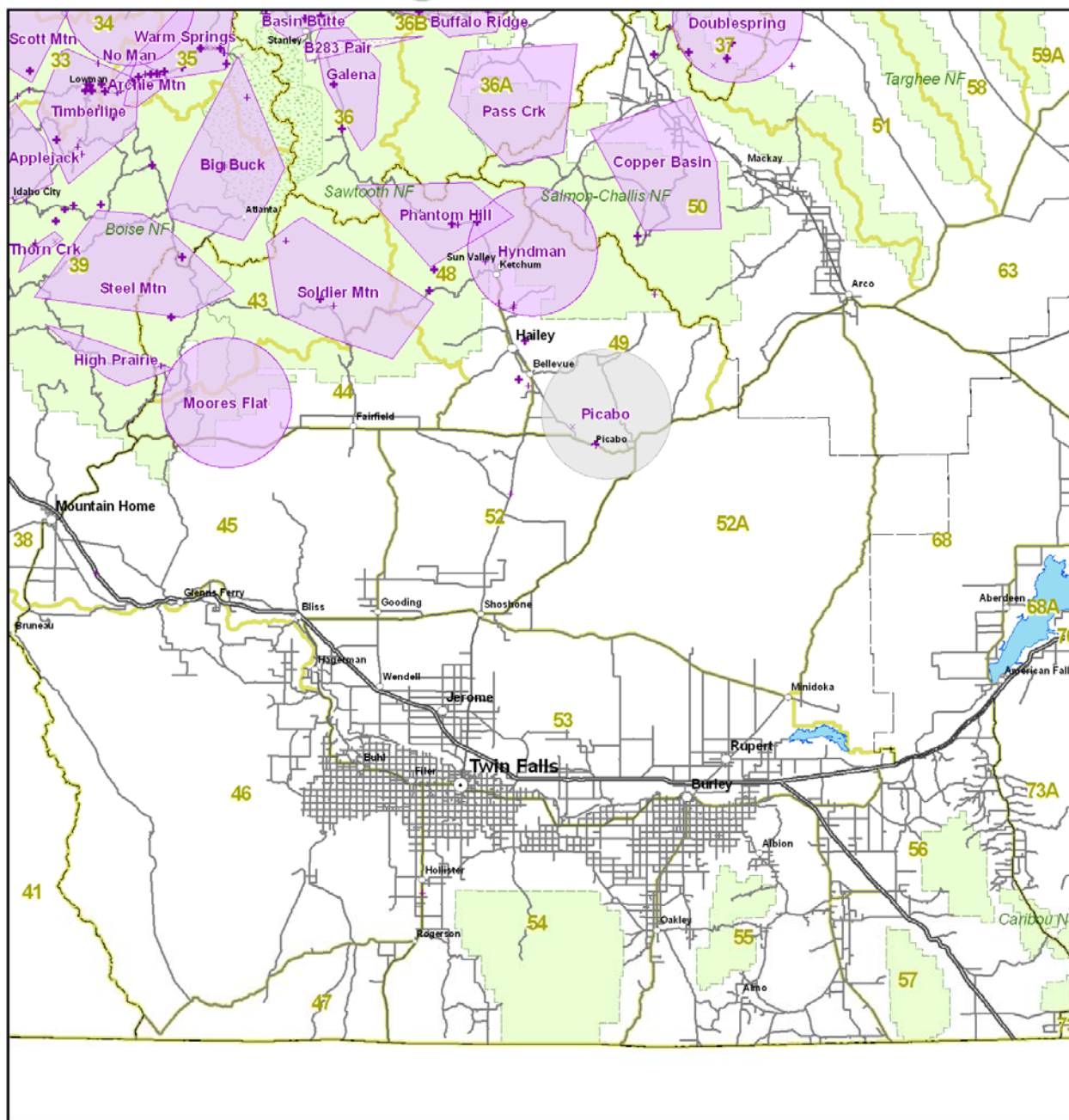
Telemetry, Documented and Suspected Locations

2000-07 Telemetry and Research-based Locations 2007 Estimated Locations (Not Telemetry-based)

 Documented Pack Documented Pack

2007 Public Observations ***

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
|  Documented Pack |  Documented Pack |  Multiple Wolves Observed |
|  Documented Group (Less than 4 animals) |  Documented Group (Pair or Group less than 4 animals) |  Single Wolf Sighted |
|  Documented Lone Wolf |  Suspected Pack |  Not Specified |
| |  Terminated Group | |



* Telemetry data and research locations collected and analyzed by Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Nez Perce Tribe, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Wildlife Services and the National Park Service. Pack locations are minimum convex polygons of telemetry and research observations for radiocollared wolves from 11/1/2006 - 12/31/2007 with outliers removed. Packs which did not exist in 2007 are excluded. This map is provided for management purposes and should not be used for data analysis. Do not release these data to third parties without first contacting the Idaho Department of Fish and Game or the Nez Perce Tribe.

** Estimated Pack Activity determined by biologists from research locations, public observations and incidental observations from 1/1/2006 - 12/31/2007.

*** Public Observations from 1/1/2007 - 12/31/2007 collected on the Idaho Fish and Game website and reviewed by staff biologists.

Figure 10. Wolf pack activity and observations in the Magic Valley Region, 2007.

Table 6. Minimum number of wolves detected, reproductive status, mortality, dispersal, monitoring status, and livestock depredation for documented and suspected wolf packs and other wolf groups within Idaho Department of Fish and Game Magic Valley Region, 2007.

Wolf group ^a	Min. no. wolves detected ^b	Reproductive status			Documented mortalities				Known dispersal	Monitoring status			Confirmed & (probable) wolf-caused livestock losses		
		Min. no. pups prod. (died) ^c	Reported as							Active radio collars	No. wolf captures ^h	No. wolves missing ⁱ			
			reprod. pack	breeding pair ^d	Natural	Control ^e	Other human ^f	Unknwn ^g							
DOCUMENTED PACK															
Hyndman	?	?	NO	NO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moores Flat	2	6(5)	YES	NO	0	9	0	0	0	0	1	0	4(4)	27	1
Phantom Hill	5	3	YES	YES	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	14(3)	2
Soldier Mountain	2	?	NO	NO	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	(3)	0
SUBTOTAL	9	9(5)			0	9	0	0	0	3	3	1	4(4)	41(6)	3
OTHER DOCUMENTED GROUP															
Picabo ^j	0	0			0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
SUBTOTAL	0	0			0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
UNKNOWN															
	?				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1)	0
SUBTOTAL	0				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1)	0
REGIONAL TOTAL	9	9(5)			0	12	0	0	0	3	3	1	9(4)	41(7)	3

^a Documented pack = territorial groups of wolves usually consisting of an adult male and female and their offspring from one or more generations, and has the potential to reproduce (2 adults of opposite sex). Suspected pack = geographic areas where wolf pack presence was suspected but not verified, or where wolf presence was verified but did not meet documented pack status. Other documented group = verified groups not meeting either documented or suspected pack status (e.g., lone wolves, potential mated pairs, etc.). Unknown = geographic areas where wolf presence was previously unverified and/or no data on group status was known.

^b Summing this column does not equate to number of wolves estimated to be present in the population.

^c Number in parentheses indicates known pup mortality; pup mortalities tallied in the appropriate column in DOCUMENTED MORTALITIES.

^d Breeding pairs are the measure of Federal and State wolf recovery and management goals. A breeding pair is defined as "an adult male and a female wolf that have produced at least 2 pups that survive until December 31 of the year of their birth...".

^e Includes agency lethal control and legal take.

^f Includes all other human-related deaths.

^g Does not include pups that disappeared before winter.

^h Includes wolves captured for monitoring purposes during 2007. Most, but not all, were radiocollared.

ⁱ Radiocollared wolves that became missing in 2007.

^j Group no longer considered extant due to agency lethal removal, lack of verified evidence for the preceding 2 years, or other cause.